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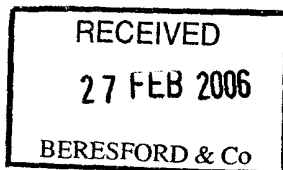
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Date

23.02.06

Reference 5220040	Application No./Patent No. 05076931.4 - 2310
Applicant/Proprietor THE OHIO WILLOW WOOD COMPANY	

### Communication

The partial European search report (R. 46 EPC) is enclosed.

The applicant is informed that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention(s) already searched and for which a meaningful search can be carried out, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, in the present instance

### 2 search fees

within **one month** after notification of this communication.

If applicable, a European search opinion covering those invention(s) for which a search fee has been paid will then be sent together with the European search report.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

☒ Abstract

☒ Title

☐ the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

### Automatic debiting procedure

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement 2 to OJ EPO 01/2005.



Registered letter  
EPO Form 1507U 01.05

Entered By:	LF
Due:	5 23/3/2006
Bring Up:	28/3/2006
Checked By:	EW

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 4 840 635 A (SMITH ET AL) 20 June 1989 (1989-06-20) * column 1, line 35 - line 38 * * column 3, line 3 - line 6; figures 2,3 *	1,2	A61F2/78
X	US 4 635 626 A (LERMAN ET AL) 13 January 1987 (1987-01-13) * column 3, line 21 - line 22; figure 3 * * column 3, line 45 - line 50 *	1	
X	EP 0 374 281 A (LERMAN, MAX) 27 June 1990 (1990-06-27) * column 4, line 19 - line 22; figure 8 * * column 8, line 8 - line 53 *	1	
X	GB 2 261 358 A (* SALT & SON LIMITED) 19 May 1993 (1993-05-19) * page 2, line 5 - line 7 * * page 4, line 5 - line 6 * * abstract *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61F
<b>LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION</b>			
The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:			
see sheet B			
The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
Munich	10 February 2006	Mingrino, A	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	DE 43 21 182 C1 (BRADO TRIKOTAGEN GMBH VORMALS BRAEUNSDORFER STRUMPFABRIK, 09112 CHEMN) 1 December 1994 (1994-12-01) * column 3, line 15 - line 18 *	1	
A	US 3 732 578 A (POLLACK H,US) 15 May 1973 (1973-05-15) * the whole document *	1-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10, 19

sleeve member for enclosing an amputation stump, having an open end and a closed end.  
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2. claims: 11-16, 20

open ended cushion sleeve comprising a polymeric gel composition, said gel composition comprising a block copolymer and mineral oil.  
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3. claims: 17, 18

polymeric gel comprising a block copolymer and mineral oil, said gel having a Shore A durometer of 1-20, and a cushioned fabric coated with said gel.  
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The present application comprises three invention which are directed towards three different aspects:

Independent Claim 1: protection of an amputation stump by using a sleeve member with an open end and a closed end;

Independent Claim 11: increase the confort of a sleeve by using a polymeric gel composition;

Independent Claims 17 and 18: provide a gel with a given durometer.

The three groups of Claims are not linked by a general inventive concept, thus the application lacks unity according to Article 82 EPC.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 07 6931

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-02-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4840635	A	20-06-1989	NONE	
US 4635626	A	13-01-1987	NONE	
EP 0374281	A	27-06-1990	AU 607294 B2	28-02-1991
			AU 2699388 A	21-06-1990
			ES 2053698 T3	01-08-1994
			GB 2226275 A	27-06-1990
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DE 4321182	C1	01-12-1994	DE 9309472 U1	26-08-1993
US 3732578	A	15-05-1973	NONE	